



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - September 2017							
Time	September 3 Pentecost 13	September 10 Pentecost 14	September 17 Pentecost 15	September 24 Pentecost 16			
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Peter Baker Rev Neil Peters Communion			
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw	Rev Neil Peters Baptism	Rev Neil Peters			
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters	Alanee Hearnshaw	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters			
4.30 pm	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families	School Holidays			
7.00 pm	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw			
Lectionary	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Phil 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16			
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green	Green			

AUGUST

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 August	12noon	Club 2017
12 August	6pm	Indonesian Cultural Night
13 August	All day	Monthly Material Aid Offering
13 August	12noon	Light Lunch
16 August	10am	Special Slice Morning Tea at The Hub
20 August	All services	Church Council Elections
20 August	12noon	Munch with a Bunch
27 August	12noon	Outreach Forum

SEPTEMBER

15 September	6.30pm	Intergenerational Night
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Special Slice Morning Tea

Join us for a variety of homemade slices and support the research into Parkinson's Disease



**ALL donations to
Parkinson's Victoria
ALL WELCOME**

**Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church
cnr Bogong Ave & Kingsway**

When: Wednesday 16th August 2017

Time: 10 am to 12 noon

If you would like to attend, please add your name to the list on the office counter.

The Christian Church in the World

Captives in Crisis in Mali and Philippines: The day before the French president stood in Bamako, Mali, pledging to support a new regional multinational anti-terror force, a Mali-based al-Qaeda affiliate released a disturbing video. It provided proof of life of six Western hostages (mostly missionaries), while explaining that 'if we are struck ... you will be struck.' Clearly these captives need to be freed before the new multinational anti-terror force commences operations in September. Meanwhile, reports have emerged in the Philippines that the civilians being held captive by IS-inspired jihadists in Marawi are being used not only as human shields, but as porters and sex-slaves, with Christians being forcibly converted to Islam. The rebels' demands have been rejected and their territory is shrinking. The situation for the captives is most serious. Please pray (Psalm 20:7).

In Iran, People want Change: There was a high turn-out to the Iranian elections on 19 May when the incumbent, President Hassan Rouhani, was comfortably re-elected. Most significantly, Rouhani won despite his opponent, hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi, being the regime's preferred candidate. Hard-liners only ever won when reform-minded Iranians boycotted elections. But those days are over; the people are making their will known. However, nothing can change while Iran's unelected powers - the supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei and his Revolutionary Guards - retain ultimate power. Human rights abuses, including persecution of Christians, will continue and may even be exacerbated by US President Trump's overt support for, and enormous arms deal with, the Wahhabist, anti-Shi'ite, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (Like Iran, Saudi Arabia is a leading sponsor of international terrorism.) May God intervene to the blessing of his church.

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

John 15:18: "If the world hates you, remember that it has hated me (Jesus) first. (Quoted from 'Good News' Bible).

"As Christ's disciples we are called to be ambassadors and to remain faithful in the face of persecution; this requires bravery; and God is our deliverer." (From "With Love to the World" - 20 June)

Material Aid Offering - August

This month's material aid offering is for the organisation Reading out of Poverty.

This organisation provides reading programs for disadvantaged Victorian children under the age of 5. Programs include pop up libraries, story telling sessions at various community centres and book giving.

Donations of picture books suitable for children under 5 are welcome. Books may be new or used (in good condition).

For more information about the work of this organisation see its website readingoutofpoverty.org.au.

Outreach Forum - Sunday 27 August at 12noon

The next Outreach Forum will be held on Sunday 27th Aug at 12 noon in the fellowship area. Lunch will be provided for \$5.

The speakers will be the GWUC Welfare Committee who will (whilst maintaining confidentiality) help our congregation get an understanding of the breadth of the welfare work that our church provides to the community. This may open your eyes to the needs of people in our area. All welcome.

Please sign the attendance sheet at the office window for catering purposes.

Chocolates for Sale - Supporting NextGen Trip to South Korea

If you would like to support the NextGen young people as they travel to South Korea, please feel free to drop into the Church Office and purchase a chocolate or two.

Only \$2 per chocolate and all monies will assist with this worthy cause.

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

We are God's people living out God's mission. See our Organic Vision Document at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/Visions2014Presentation>.

During August the Congregation will be electing some new members of Church Council. Nine councillors have completed their term of office with most of the nine having served for four years. Three of the nine are seeking re-election. Discerning the call to serve is part of servant ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:27 - Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body.

As Chair for the last four years I have been grateful for the manner in which Council has operated. Rather than individuals we acted as a united council who continually discerned the leading of the Spirit. I thank all Council members for their loyalty, support and contributions. Each person brought their gifts to enrich Council:

Judy Lowe as Council Secretary was faithful, kind, thoughtful and compassionate and conscientiously and diligently composed agendas, minutes, reports and letters.

David Morgan provided experience, knowledge, good judgement and showed leadership, wisdom, courage, perseverance and attention to detail.

David Fraser enthusiastically led gatherings in an imaginative, creative manner.

Alison Clarkson provided a link between Presbytery and Council.

Elwyn Pederson presented beautiful devotions, for example music as spiritual practice.

Angel Shea willingly shared her cultural understandings.

Mark Easton effectively facilitated task groups and discussions.

Gail Irvine shared her personal journey.

Ashley Irvine carried out his role as Treasurer.

Alanee Hearnshaw continually provided a spiritual depth of understanding.

Neil Peters pastorally cared for the congregation in accepting the 'priority placement'.

I wish the new Church Council a successful future in their leadership role. We go in faith, assured of the Spirit's leading.

Helen Stewart - Retiring Chair of Church Council

Sometimes Life

Makes You Wonder

Grow confident in sharing your own faith, with Rev Dr Ian Robinson.

11-13 August 2017 at North Ringwood UC, Fri evening-Sun afternoon

14-15 August 2017 at Hoppers Crossing UC, 9:30am-3:00pm

Makes You Wonder training helps people to find their own voice for their own faith in their own situation. It does so through authentic friendship, prayer, respect and caring. This training is for people who want to learn to share their own faith in everyday ways, and for leaders who will train others in the *Makes You Wonder* resources.

Uniting Church people are known to be good at putting their faith into action. The most recent National Church Life Survey confirms again that Uniting Churches are confident as welcoming and faithful communities who are committed to serving their local community and to social justice. But Uniting Churches are less confident about sharing their faith in everyday ways, and less sure about inviting others to discover the good news that faith in Jesus can bring to life.

The *Makes You Wonder* exercises truly, slowly, strongly empower people. It is a unique, international resource, going where no other faith-sharing course goes. It includes resources for leaders and for small groups. Download the free MYW smartphone app which suggests a daily reflection question and conversation starter that will help you share your own faith.

When:

Fri 11 August (7:00pm-9:00pm)

Sat 12 August (9:15am-5:15pm)

Sun 13 August (12:00-4:00pm)

Where:

North Ringwood Uniting Church,
14 Dickson Cres, Ringwood North

Register Online by Fri 4 August:

<https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/myw2017>

Registration cost: \$40

Including meals & refreshments

Sponsored by
the CTM

When:

Mon 14 Aug, 9:30am-3:00pm

Tue 15 Aug, 9:30am-3:00pm

Where:

Hoppers Crossing Uniting Church,
235 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing

Registration:

contact Adam McIntosh
themcintoshbunch@hotmail.com
0414 725 887

Registration cost: \$0 -
sponsored by
Port Phillip West

Makes You Wonder training is for:

- Anyone keen to develop their own faith sharing
- Small group leaders interested to explore and share the faith of their group
- Leaders keen to develop their leadership teams and communities of faith
- Evangelists keen to share faith with non-churched and de-churched people
- Preachers keen to enrich the faith-forming power of church services
- Regional leaders keen to help local church groups to grow in faith and confidence

Makes You Wonder will help you:

- To find your own voice in sharing the faith that you have at the moment
- To develop confidence in the power of being simply yourself
- To realise afresh how great a gospel we have received
- To find fresh and biblical ways to share these discoveries in small steps with those who have no church background

Make you wonder resources:

<http://makesyouwonder.yolasite.com/>

Ian Robinson is an experienced Uniting Church minister, chaplain, desert retreat leader and explorer, trainer and author. Ian has been developing and refining ways to explore, share and deepen faith for decades, and for countless years has been a member of the Uniting Church National Assembly Mission & Evangelism Network (AMEN). Ian's books include *Burning Hope*, *This Thirsty Heart* and *If Anyone Thirsts*.

Proposed Legislation on Euthanasia

GWUC members will have heard of the intention of the Victorian State Parliament to introduce legislation to the parliament in the next few months which deals with end of life choice, commonly known as euthanasia. You may wish to consider the issues and to contact your local member before the legislation is debated in parliament - possibly in August.

You can find a great deal of information on the internet about the proposals and debate both for and against the legislation. Here are a few sites to start your inquiry:

- The final report of the advisory committee's *Inquiry into end of life choices* is available on:
https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/file_uploads/LSIC_pF3xBb2L.pdf
Apparently the legislation will include 68 safeguards to ensure that subjects will not be coerced, and that they must be suffering intolerable pain from an incurable illness and be within 12 months of end of life. The wording of the legislation is not yet available.
- Stan Grant's program *The Link*, on July 28, interviewed members of the public and one of the advisors to the parliamentary committee. The program can be viewed until August 11 on:
<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/link/NC1710HO21S00#>
- The Queensland Uniting Church's 19th synod of 1996 was opposed to euthanasia as outlined at:
<https://ucaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/A-Christian-response-to-euthanasia-1996.pdf>
- The WA synod makes a call for compassion at:
unitingchurchwa.org.au/blog/2010/09/a-call-for-compassion-in-the-euthanasia-debate/
- Opposing views come from the Catholic Church and can be sourced at:
<https://www.catholic.org.au//bishops-commission-for-pastoral-life/alternative-to-euthanasia>
- The Australian Medical Association's statement of November 2016 is opposed to medically assisted dying, as stated at
<https://ama.com.au/tags/euthanasia>,
although their position has been challenged by a survey of doctors conducted and reported on at:
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/health/most-doctors-would-help-terminally-ill-die-ama/news-story/82a3d43d1c8742230a406e8ebe0cedb9>

Inclusive Community Report

Prayer Support Group: If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer support group. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto group members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information contact Heather or Wendy in the office, during office hours, or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

Club 2017 will meet as normal today.

Light Lunch: There will be a light lunch next Sunday 13 August after the 11am service. Please join us for this special time of fellowship. This will be followed by a Newcomers' afternoon tea. (Newcomers - if you haven't sent back your reply, would you please contact the office by Tuesday as we need to know numbers for catering purposes.)

Transport: Many members of our congregation are experiencing health problems and are unable to drive, either for a short time or permanently. Most of these people want to attend the 11am service. We would love to hear from you if you think you could help with transport. One lady living in the area bordered by Springvale Road, Waverley Road, Ferntree Gully Road and Watsons Road is requiring transport at present. If we have a few people who are willing to help we could make a small roster. If you can help or have some suggestions, please talk to Heather or Wendy in the office.

Munch with a Bunch will be held on Sunday 20 August. You should have received your invitation by now and you need to reply by next Sunday, 13 August. The function will be held in the hall.

Diary Date - Intergenerational Night - Friday 15 September at 6.30pm: At our last meeting we began planning this event with Alanee. It should be a good night with activities for the youngest to the oldest. We will give you more details in the next monthly bulletin.

Our next Inclusive Community Meeting will be held on Thursday 10 August at 1pm in Room 1. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear

Glen Waverley Secondary College School Chaplaincy Program

Following a successful walk-a-thon our church recently was able to donate \$2500 towards the Glen Waverley Secondary College Chaplaincy program. The Acting Principal wrote the following expression of thanks to our congregation ...

Dear Neil,

On behalf of Gerry and the rest of the college, I'd like to thank you and the Uniting Church for the very generous donation. The Chaplaincy Program is paramount to the support required and wellbeing of many of our students. Without the money raised by the Uniting Church, we would not be able to fund the programs and activities that have been so successful in supporting the students in need.

Thank you, so much.

Vin Penso - Assistant Principal, Glen Waverley Secondary College

Church Council Nominations

Church Council Elections will take place on Sunday 20 August. A single purpose congregation meeting is called for that day, encompassing all services of worship, to enable persons attending any of the worship services to vote. This is to ensure the maximum possible participation by our congregation.

Information regarding the seven nominees is included here. Please see the noticeboard outside the church office which also includes a photo of each nominee.

Alison Clarkson: I have been a member of this congregation since 1968; served as an Elder and on Church Council; coordinated Ministry to Seniors for 16 years; including leading worship and conducting funerals; currently part of the Pastoral Team; member of Inclusive Community and Faith Development Mission Groups and Leisure Time Committee; lead devotions at local aged care facilities and retirement villages.

I am very supportive of the four pillars of our vision and consider my involvement in these various areas is a way of furthering our mission both within the congregation and the wider community, as we seek to share God's unconditional love.

Church Council Nominations (continued)

David Fraser: I have been worshipping at Glen Waverley for 40 years. I was a youth group leader for over 20 years. In the past I have served on Church Council and as an elder. Currently I play guitar at the 9.15am service and have just finished one year on Church Council. I wish to commit to a longer term on Church Council so that I can contribute to the growth and outreach of our church community.

Glyn Howells: I grew up in the country and the suburbs in congregations in Geelong, Mildura, Adelaide, Naracoorte, Kerang, Glen Waverley and Fitzroy. In different ways my parents, Alba and Theda, and my forebears have sought to live out their faith in openness to others and in a search for authentic Christian community and discipleship in different times and places. I see myself as part of that tradition. Having recently retired I am blessed that both my daughters now live in Melbourne.

I was part of the youth group in GWUC in the early 1970s. At university I was shaped by my involvement in the Australian Student Christian Movement (ASCM). I was parish worker for the Uniting Church of Fitzroy for a year while I lived in an SCM community house in Fitzroy for 5 years. In the 1970s and 80s with SCM friends I worked as a human rights activist through church and secular networks in Melbourne and later in Singapore. I have served in a variety of educational institutions in Melbourne, Singapore and China particularly as an English as a Second Language teacher preparing Asian students for western tertiary education. Presently I attend the 8am service and spend regular stints gardening, chopping wood and enjoying life as part of an established off-grid bush community in north-east Victoria.

Susan Karoly: I am passionate about the development of our sense of wonderment about God. This can be through silence, worship, bible study or the arts. I have a Masters in Theological Studies and enjoy sharing the Word of God in a congregational setting. I am also a Godly Play trained teacher. Currently, I am a member of the Faith Development Committee, and co-lead the children at 4.30pm Sunday worship. I have also led devotions at Glen Waverley Nursing Home, and have a deep love for the Spiritual care of the aged and vulnerable persons, those within and without our congregation.

Church Council Nominations (continued)

Ben Krieger: I have been involved with the COP Selection Panel and the ARUS Railway Museum and am a Youth Group Leader. I bring a young person's perspective and hope to see the church grown and try new ideas.

Gael O'Brien: I have been involved with choir, playgroup, the Hub, Bible study (Monday night), communion duties, prayers of the people, morning tea Sunday morning, flower roster, fete stalls, Elders Council, Ecumenical Church visits and the Easter role play.

Angel Shea: Hi. I am Angel Shea. I just completed my term of appointment as a Church Councillor and I am ready for re-nomination. My vision statement: To know Jesus Christ and make him known. To love and live for God as a follower of Jesus Christ. Through God's word, we disciple and equip people to grow in love for God and each other; and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sony Rospita Simanjuntak: My academic background is law (Indonesian law) and I got my PhD in law from the University of Melbourne. I have worked as a research assistant but now I am working as a language assistant for high school students. I got involved with Monash Uniting Church as a Church Councillor and Sunday School teacher and moved to Glen Waverley UCA 13 years ago. My other gift, probably I can bring, is the cross-cultural aspects to the Church. I have a husband and 2 sons (26 year old and 20 year old). When they were students I got involved with the School Board and other groups.